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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

- 1.(Currently Amended) A pulverulent laundry and cleaning detergents ingredient which ~~comprises~~ consists of a reaction product obtained by depositing a solution of an acidic polycarboxylate onto an alkaline silicate and drying.
- 2.(Previously Presented) A pulverulent laundry and cleaning detergents ingredient as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction product has a weight ratio of alkaline silicate to acidic polycarboxylate of (40 to 1):1.
- 3.(Previously Presented) A pulverulent laundry and cleaning detergents ingredient as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction product has a weight ratio of alkaline silicate to acidic polycarboxylate of (20 to 2):1.
- 4.(Previously Presented) A pulverulent laundry and cleaning detergents ingredient as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polycarboxylate used is an unneutralized or only partially neutralized homo- and/or copolymer of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, maleic acid, poly-aspartic acid, saccharic acid and/or other monomers.
- 5.(Currently Amended) A pulverulent laundry and cleaning detergents ingredient as claimed in claim 1, which ~~comprises~~ consists of from 50 to 98% by weight of an alkaline silicate and from 2 to 50% by weight of a copolymer of from 10 to 70% by weight of maleic acid, from 20 to 85% by weight of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid, from

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1 to 50% by weight of vinyl acetate and from 0 to 10% by weight of other monomers  
5 having a degree of neutralization of from 0 to 70%.

6.(Previously Presented) A pulverulent laundry and cleaning detergents ingredient as claimed in claim 1, wherein the alkaline silicate has the formula  $xM_2O \ ySiO_2 \ zH_2O$  having a molar ratio of  $SiO_2$  to  $M_2O$  of (1 to 3.5):1 where  $z = 0$  to 4 and  $M = Na$  and/or  $K$ , which may contain up to 1% by weight of other elements and/or compounds.

7.(Previously Presented) A pulverulent laundry and cleaning detergents ingredient as claimed in claim 1, wherein the alkaline silicate is amorphous sodium silicate.

8.(Previously Presented) A pulverulent laundry and cleaning detergents ingredient as claimed in claim 1, wherein the alkaline silicate is a crystalline sodium silicate.

9.(Original) A pulverulent laundry and cleaning detergents ingredient as claimed in claim 8, wherein the alkaline silicate is a crystalline sodium phyllosilicate.

10.(Previously Presented) A pulverulent laundry and cleaning detergents ingredient as claimed in claim 1, wherein the other elements and/or compounds are selected from the group consisting of aluminum, titanium, iron, calcium, magnesium, their compounds, and mixtures thereof.

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11. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a pulverulent laundry and cleaning detergents ingredient which comprises depositing a solution of an acidic polycarboxylate solution onto an alkaline silicate and drying.
12. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 11, wherein from 2 to 60 parts by weight of acidic polycarboxylate solution are deposited onto 100 parts by weight of alkaline silicate.
13. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 11, wherein from 10 to 40 parts by weight of acidic polycarboxylate solution are deposited onto 100 parts by weight of alkaline silicate.
14. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the solution of the polycarboxylate is a neutralized or only partially neutralized homo- or a copolymer of an acid selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, maleic acid, polyaspartic acid, and saccharic acid and/or other monomers.
15. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the polycarboxylate solution is deposited onto the alkaline silicate in a solids mixer which contains a liquid-spraying device.

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16.(Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the reaction product of alkaline silicate and acidic polycarboxylate solution is dried at temperatures of from 40 to 150°C for a period of from 5 to 120 minutes.

Claims 17- 22 Canceled

23.(Currently Amended) A process for using the reaction product of an alkaline silicate and an acidic polycarboxylate, wherein said reaction product is obtained by contacting the alkaline silicate with a solution of the acidic polycarboxylate and drying to provide a dry reaction product, said process comprising combining said dry reaction product with at least one component selected from the group consisting of surfactant, bleach, washing alkali, dispersant, enzyme, builder, polyelectrolyte and sodium triphosphate

24.(Previously Presented) The process of claim 23, wherein said combining is a dry mixing process.

25.(Previously Presented) A laundry detergent made by the process of claim 23.

26.(Previously Presented) A cleaning detergent made by the process of claim 23.

27.(Previously Presented) A dishwashing detergent made by the process of claim 23.